Advertisements by Foreign Funded NGOs

365. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a few foreign funded N.G.Os. placed advertisements in leading newspapers criticising the Central Government; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken against each such N.G.O.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OFTHE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ministry of Home Affairs had issued Show-cause Notices to 13 NGOs under the provisions of Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976.

Provision for News in Nepali on Doordarshan

366. SHRI DAWA LAMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that although there are 0.24 per cent Nepali speaking people in India in comparison to 0.01 per cent Sanskrit speaking people (1991 census), there is no provision for news in Nepali on Doordarshan;

(b) whether Government propose to consider this aspect; and

(c) if so, the time frame thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OFTHE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) Provision of a weekly news bulletin in Sanskrit has been made not on the basis of percentage of Sanskrit speaking population but because of importance and status of Sanskrit language in Indian culture and heritage. Prasar Bharati have intimated that at present there is no proposal to introduce Nepali news bulletin on Doordarshan.

Disruption of shooting of Film 'Water'

367. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that he had observed that attempts at disruption of the shooting of film 'Water' cannot be endorsed as nobody could assume the powers of the National Film Censor Board;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government to ensure the shooting of the film in Varanasi; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting while considering proposals for shooting of films in India by foreigners, keeps in view the concerns of integrity of the nation, friendly relations with other countries and communal harmony while adhering to the policy of freedom of expression. Permission for shooting in India is subject to certain conditions, one of which is that the completed film will be shown to a representative of the Government of India or in the Indian Mission abroad before it is released anywhere in the world. Further, before release of the film in India it is required to be certified by the Central Board of Film Certification. These stages are available in order to ensure that nothing objectionable to the image of the country is projected.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is the nodal Ministry for granting approval to proposals to shoot films in India, wholly or partly, by foreigners according to the procedure prescribed in the Visa Manual brought out by the Ministry of External Affairs. The permission granted by the Ministry is subject to certain conditions, one of which is that shooting on locations will be subject to permission being granted by the respective local authorities. As such permission for shooting the film WATER in Varanasi is subject to permission being granted by the local administration.

Advertisements of liquor/tobacco on Doordarshan

368. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to lift the ban on advertisements of liquor and tobacco on Doordarshan;

(b) if so, whether such a step of Government will affect adversely the youngsters and school-going children;

(c) whether Government propose to take such a step under the pressure of liquor barons and MNCs involved in tobacco; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and reaction of Government thereon?